

The Oscillator

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March Business Meeting

Program: The Review of the ARRL International Grid Challenge & The New CNPOTA Parks Chase

Friday, March 22, 2019, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. The program for the evening is from Brian WD9HSY. Raffle and refreshments will be available. Bring a friend.

April Business Meeting

Program: Fox Hunting – The Hide and Seek of Ham Radio! John N9DWE & Jim KB9VR

Friday, April 26, 2019, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. The business meeting will be followed by a program. Raffle and refreshments will be available. Bring a friend.

2019 Election Results

Nominations were open for the election of officers and member of the board of Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club for 2019 until the time of the vote at the Meeting/Christmas Party. The slate of nominations was as follows: for the Office of President, Brian Bedoe WD9HSY, Vice-President, Matt Schumann N9OTL, Secretary, Jim Everard WD9GXU, Treasurer, Trish Jaggard N9WDG and John Krueger N9DWE for Director. The slate of officers was unanimously elected. Thank you to all who chose to serve the Club in 2019.

From the Presidents Shack

Brian WD9HSY

Well you guys have done it, you elected me to be your Club President! If current Presidential politics have provide anything, I can do as I please (HI HI) I would like to take this opportunity to thank Todd KA9IUC for his leadership over the past few years. I would also like to thank all the Officers and Board members who's behind the scenes work keep the Club moving in the right Direction.

I would also like to ask the membership to dig deep and ask what you can do to help the Club along. There are a number of posts for volunteers to step up and fill and if you think you can put together a 30 - 45 minute Club Program, that would be Super! So what are you into? Talk to the Club about it! The possibilities are endless. Get a partner in crime and double team the show.

General meeting 4 th Friday of the Month 7:30 PM
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>
Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2019

Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Club President Oscillator Editor, Repeater Trustee	815.370.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	jimgxu15@outlook.com
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708.341.8900	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Sharon Gunderson KA9IIT	Board Member	708.957.7944	d.gunderson@sbcglobal.net
John Krueger, N9DWE	Board Member	708.534.2686	johnk17856@aol.com
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466.0245	webmaster@w9vt.org

Members of the Tri-Town Radio Club Inc. publish the Oscillator 6 times a year. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Officers or members of the Tri-Town RAC, but of the contributors. All articles may be reprinted as long as full credit is given. Other publications are asked to reciprocate their newsletter. Some Articles printed here are from AMSAT, ARRL Letter, TAPR, World Radio, QRZ.COM, Eham, and Other Amateur Radio Publications.

Club Meetings & Nets

Club meetings are the 4th Friday of each month at the Village of Hazel Crest Village Hall, 170th and Holmes. All are welcome and refreshments will serve. Don't forget to bring a Friend.

Club Hangouts:

The Club's Repeater 146.805 WD9HSY/R & 146.49 Simplex 442.375 Homewood, 441.300 Grant Park WA9WLN/R, "Waldofar" 443.325 Frankfort WD9HSY/R & 147.165 Kankakee Co. WD9HSY/R All UHF's use a 114.8 PL & All VHF's use a 107.2 PL

Club Nets

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net Wednesday, 8:00 PM Local, The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
2 Mtr FM Preparedness Net Sundays, 8:00 PM local, The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2
40 Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net Weekdays, 2200 UTC 7.285 SSB LSB
80 Mtr SSB Net Saturdays, 9am local 3.860 SSB LSB

Tri-Town Meeting Day has Changed for 2019

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Tri-Town's Tentative 2019 Event Calendar

March 22, 2019,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
April 14, 2019,		Folks on Spokes Bike Ride
April 26, 20119,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
May 17 -19, 2019,		Hamvention
May 24, 2019,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
June 15, 2019	ESTIMATE	Driving the Dixie (Date unpublished, estimate based on 2018)
June 28, 2019,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
June 29 and 30,	24 hrs	Field Day at Bunker.
July 26, 2016,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
August 23, 2016,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
Sept 28, 2019,		Picnic at Monee Reservoir NO monthly meeting.
October 25, 2019,	7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
Nov 22, 2019	7:30 PM,	Meeting at the Bunker.
December 20, 2019		Christmas Party. TENATIVE

Board of Directors Meetings - Second Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Members are welcome.

Changes to the Tri-Town RAC Constitution & By-Laws Dated January 1, 1996

The Officers and Board proposed changes to the Tri-Town RAC Constitution and By-Laws. The changes were reviewed and passed at the October and November Business meetings. Changes will be effective January 1, 2019. If you wish a copy of the Tri-Town RAC Constitution and By-Laws, please email Todd, KA9IUC and a file copy will be emailed to you.

Tri-Town Meeting Day to Change in 2019 **** 4TH Friday!! ****

Beginning with the January 2019 meeting, our meeting night will change from the 3rd Friday to the 4th Friday of the month. This is being done to avoid meeting night conflicts with another ham club in the area. Hopefully this will increase attendance at Tri-Town meetings and allow for better programs

Trading Post

Campers Special:

Yaesu FT-817ND.....w/mic....original box
Nicad battery pack(internal)w/charger (NC-72B)
Portable antennasHF/VHF/UHF
Desk stand for FT-817ND
Program Cable
Power Supply (Micranta) 1.75amp
Antenna Tuner (MFJ 941B)

Looking for \$550....pics available...will send via emailsend request to:

Jim n8eat@aol.com 708-361-2657

FCC Takes a New Tack in Combating Unlicensed Radio Broadcasting

In what may be a first in the effort to crack down on unlicensed broadcasters, the United States has filed a civil action to stop a church-related pirate radio station from operating in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Massachusetts US Attorney's Office is seeking an injunction to shut down the station, operating on 97.1 MHz.

“This groundbreaking step, for an injunction to stop a pirate radio operator’s illegal activities, is part of our continued efforts to combat illegal broadcasting,” FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold said this week. “As we work with our law enforcement colleagues to use every tool in our toolbox to combat pirate radio, I welcome the Justice Department's renewed use of its Section 401(a) injunction authority. Along with fines, equipment seizures, and warnings, this action underlines our continued interest in combatting this serious problem.”

The FCC already has fined operator Vasco Oburoni and Christian Praise International Church \$15,000 for repeated violations of its rules against unlicensed operation. The complaint recounts that Oburoni and the church first began operating an unlicensed station in Worcester on 102.3 MHz. After issuing multiple warnings, the FCC levied the \$15,000 penalty, and Oburoni agreed to a payment plan. But later, he began broadcasting again, this time on 97.1 MHz. At least one licensed broadcaster has complained to the FCC, citing interference concerns.

The K7RA Solar Update

At 2256 UTC on February 28 the Australian Space Forecast Centre issued a Geomagnetic Disturbance Warning. “The Earth is currently under the influence of strongly elevated solar wind speed associated with a coronal hole. A period of significant southward Bz component could produce an isolated Minor Storm period.” The Bz component refers to the interplanetary magnetic field. See: <https://bit.ly/1S6H68D>

No sunspots emerged during the entire month of February. Currently on February 28 the Earth is bathed in solar wind from a wide hole in the Sun’s atmosphere.

The average daily solar flux and geomagnetic indices were practically unchanged over last week (February 21-27) compared to the previous seven days. Average daily solar flux was 70.7 (it was 70.6 in the prior week), average daily planetary A index was unchanged at 4.9, and average daily mid-latitude A index was 4, virtually unchanged from 3.9 the previous week.

Predicted solar flux over the next 45 days is 70 on March 1-8, and 71 on March 9 through April 14. Predicted planetary A index is 20, 14, 10, 8, 8, 5 and 5 on March 1-7, 10, 8 5 and 5 on March 8-11, 12 and 10 on March 12-13, 5 on March 14-19, 10 on March 20, 5 on March 21-25, then 18, 24, 16, 12 and 8 on March 26-30, then 5, 8, 5, 8, 10 and 8 on March 31 through April 5, 5 on April 6-7, then 12 and 10 on April 8-9, and 5 on April 10-14.

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Some Stormy Seas for Competitive Sailors Using HF Amateur Radio

The sorts of rules regulating the degree of outside assistance allowed in ham radio contesting also apply in other endeavors. An Estonian skipper was recently penalized in the Golden Globe Race (GGR) after seeking “weather routing” — the best route according to wind and weather conditions — via ham radio. The apparent third-place skipper Uku Randmaa, ES1UKU, **escaped disqualification** from the round-the-world race, however, getting a 72-hour penalty instead. As of March 4, he had 630 miles to go. He'll serve most of his time penalty after he finishes the race.

A recording of the conversation was provided to race headquarters on February 19. In it, Randmaa asks, “I’m heading 90°. Can I be sure that I can take the wind, if I’m sailing east?” The other station, VP8LP, advises him to move northwest and later tells Randmaa, “The more north you go, the quicker you get out of the wind hole.”

Race rules say, “Entrants are free to speak to media, family, friends, and sponsors by radio at any time during the event, but must not be given any form of weather routing. Competitors may communicate freely (by radio or by hailing) with other competitors, or other mariners on vessels at sea, requesting or giving any verbal information/advice whatsoever, even if this is considered weather routing.”

The approximately 30,000-mile GGR solo circumnavigation starts and ends in Les Sables-d’Olonne, France. It has four rendezvous gates along the way.

“This is a retro race with skippers restricted to using a sextant, paper charts, and wind-up chronometers, just as Sir Robin Knox-Johnston used in the first *Sunday Times* Golden Globe Race 50 years ago,” Race Chairman Don McIntyre explained to *My Sailing* magazine. Skippers can only communicate by marine and/or amateur SSB HF radios and on an Amateur Radio net.

Meanwhile, according to a January **report**, some GGR sailors have been operating on Amateur Radio frequencies using phony call signs and have been asked to stop operating. One of them, second-place skipper Mark Slats — who was reported to have been using PI3MS — said on January 15 he was considering getting out of competitive sailing, citing safety concerns, after being banned from the ham radio net for being unlicensed. The GGR 2018 – 2019 winner, Jean Luc Van Den Heede, who finished on January 29, had been using J6LJV, and that call sign appears under his name on QRZ.com, although authorities in St. Lucia are reported to have said they have no record of his license.

A January 15 announcement on the Golden Globe Race Facebook page said, “GGR requires all entrants to have a licensed marine HF SSB radio... and the entrant to have a Marine Radio Operator’s license only. GGR does monitor all strong weather with winds over 40 knots, and, if appropriate, provides both forecasting and routing information to assist the entrant to sail safely.”

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Highest-Ever Summits on the Air (SOTA) Activation Reported

Tom Rudzinski, SQ9FVE, made Summits on the Air (SOTA) history on February 16 by activating Aconcagua in Mendoza, Argentina. At 6,962 meters (22,841 feet) above sea level, the mountain is the highest peak in both the Southern and Western hemispheres.

An experienced and skilled mountaineer, Rudzinski planned the expedition carefully, including all necessary support. He began his ascent to the summit nearly 2 weeks ahead of his activation, setting up camps and acclimatizing to the elevation en route. He managed five contacts on 2-meter FM, working Argentinian chasers some 90 kilometers (56 miles) away.

Rudzinski worked with a group of friends from the Cuyo Radio Club (LU1MA) to activate Aconcagua.

ARISS to Auction TS-890S, ARRL Handbook Boxed Set

The US Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) team will auction a new JVC Kenwood TS-890S transceiver and a six-volume 2019 *ARRL Handbook* boxed set — both donated items made unique by bearing the signatures of US astronauts. Bidding will begin on April 8 at 1200 UTC and conclude on April 14 at 2200 UTC. Next month's fundraiser auction will mark the first for ARISS.

"Auction proceeds will help ARISS to launch its new custom-built, higher-power radio system in 2019 that will offer a voice repeater as well as improved packet, APRS, and SSTV capability for more ham operators to enjoy," ARRL ARISS-US Delegate Rosalie White, K1STO, said. "The next-generation system will carry on the ARISS mission of introducing Amateur Radio to thousands of students, educators, and community members, in the process inspiring youngsters in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math."

White pointed out that ARISS also serves a lot of individual radio amateurs, in addition to the program's positive impact by supporting school and group contacts with ISS crew members. She said some 10,000 SSTV images transmitted in February were downloaded from the ISS via Amateur Radio, and approximately 89,000 hams took advantage of the ARISS packet system during 2018.

The full-featured TS-890S came on the US market just last year. A long-time ARISS supporter, JVC Kenwood came up with the idea to offer the astronaut-signed transceiver as an exclusive item that just one radio amateur could own.

A 100 W HF/50 MHz transceiver, the TS-890S features a high-speed independent band scope, noise reduction, a 7-inch TFT color display, built-in antenna tuner, and CW, PSK, and RTTY encoding and decoding capabilities.

More auction details will soon be posted on the **ARISS website**. Winning bidders will be responsible for the costs of shipping, handling, any required customs paperwork.

Queen Mary to Celebrate 40th Anniversary in April

The 50-member volunteer crew of the *Queen Mary* **W6RO** Nate Brightman Wireless Room will mount a month-long special event in April to mark the 40th anniversary of the station's opening on the museum ship in Long Beach, California. Launched April 22, W6RO was the first of what has grown to more than 100 Amateur Radio stations based on museum ships around the world. Crew members work tirelessly to keep W6RO on the air and make as many contacts as possible during April. Station manager David Akins, N6HHR, has set a goal of 1,000 logged contacts during the 30-day event.

A commemorative QSL card **will be available** with an SASE. Founded by Nate Brightman, K6OSC (SK), W6RO is the club station of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach. Brightman served as station manager for 34 years until his retirement in 2013. Brightman died in 2016 at age 99.

St. Patrick's Day Special Event Offering New Award this Year

— *Thanks to Bobby Wade, MI0RYL*

Stations around the world will once again be on air to turn the bands green as part of the St. Patrick's Day Award. The 48-hour annual event will run from 1200 UTC on March 16 until 1200 UTC on March 18. A new award will be available to those operating modes requiring software or a computer. To register as a station or to learn more, **visit** the St. Patrick's Day Award website.

WWV Centennial Special Event Will Use WW0WWV

With its funding secure for another year, WWV, the world's oldest continuously operating radio station, will have extra reason to celebrate its centennial this fall. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (**NIST**) and the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club (**NCARC**) have teamed up to organize 100th anniversary events. A memorandum of understanding is pending. The **WWV Committee** has announced that the call sign WW0WWV was granted on February 23 to the WWV Amateur Radio Club for use during the Amateur Radio special event, planned to run September 28 – October 2, with operators on the air — no pun intended — around the clock. NCARC predicts the effort will require “hundreds” of volunteer operators.

“The 100th anniversary is an occasion to celebrate radio and our understanding of the electromagnetic spectrum, and an opportunity to help people everywhere appreciate what radio does in their everyday lives,” said Dave Swartz, WODAS, who has been spearheading the on-the-air event.

The WWV Committee met on February 22, with representatives of NCARC and NIST on hand, to further firm up plans for the centennial celebratory events. Although the US government cannot fund any Amateur Radio special event expenses, club members will be allowed to use a 15-acre parcel on WWV property, Swartz has explained. The operating site lies outside the security fence.

For its part, NIST will focus on plans for an October 1 recognition ceremony and an open house at the radio station north of Fort Collins.

Russian “Sunflower” Radar Showing Up on 60, 40, 75 Meters

The January issue of the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) **newsletter** reports the Russian “Sunflower” coastal radar, located east of Vladivostok, is being heard at nights on 3,716 kHz and 6,860 – 7,005 kHz, as well as on several 60-meter frequencies.

A Chinese wideband over-the-horizon (OTH) radar also appeared on 7.000 MHz in early January.

While 60 meters and 80/75 meters are shared bands, the 7.000 – 7.200 MHz segment of 40 meters is currently allocated exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service worldwide. True intruders are those appearing on exclusive Amateur Radio frequency allocations.

Some domestic Amateur Radio HF allocations outside Region 2 (the Americas), such as 7.200 to 7.300 MHz, are either shared with other services or not available to radio amateurs. On HF allocations such as 30 and 60 meters, Amateur Radio is secondary to other users. The 20-, 17-, 15-, 12-, and 10-meter bands are exclusively available to the Amateur Radio Service worldwide.

“Tyro” License Proposal Now Open for Public Comment

The same day that the FCC put ARRL’s Technician Enhancement petition on public notice, it also invited comments on another **proposal**, designated RM-11829, asking the FCC to create a “Tyro” license class that would require a minimal online examination as well as mentoring by an Amateur Radio licensee of Technician class or higher. A “tyro” is a novice or a beginner. The petition was filed in August of 2017 by Gary A. Hampton, AD0WU, of Longmont, Colorado.

Tyro licensees would earn operating privileges 99 channels in a 70-centimeter “TyroSubBand.” Applicants would have to be at least 11 years old. Hampton said in his petition that one goal would be “reliable, nationwide 70-centimeter interoperability” in the exclusive 430 – 440 MHz segment of the band.

“The Tyro license is exceptionally important to FEMA’s CERT program,” Hampton’s petition asserts. “It allows ARES to solve CERT’s communication problems. The TyroSubBand technical specifications easily double the capacity of typical 70-centimeter repeaters...”

Hampton maintained in his petition that Amateur Radio also “should be used to further scientific research that is published and quickly placed in the public domain.”

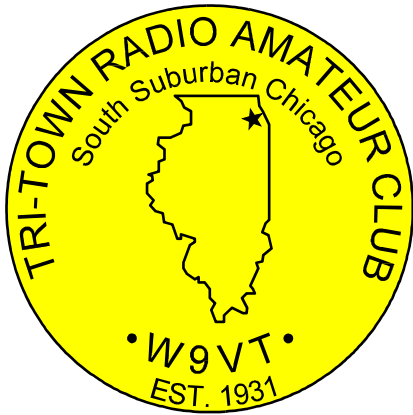
Hampton expressed the belief that institution of the Tyro license would spawn growth within Amateur Radio, making entry into the hobby nearly as simple as obtaining a General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license.

The window for comments on the Tyro license petition will be open for 30 days.

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Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.
PO Box 1296
Homewood, IL 60430-0296

March 2019



Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

_____ Regular Membership	\$	25.00
_____ SWL Membership	\$	25.00
_____ Extra Family Membership	\$	6.00

\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

For Example: Regular Member, with Family (25+6) = \$ 31.00

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